

# Finale

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and the Today show." Then, Leno's "The Tonight Show" contacted the Hurley students earlier this month. "They interviewed all of us over the phone," Jacobson said. "It was like they wanted to know our story or script." The class received an encouraging sign during the network interview, Jorgensen said. "They were interested in us because we were an outgoing group," she said. Rather than set up a group interview, "The Tonight Show" contacted the four students for separate 20-minute phone interviews. Even though they initiated the process and provided their phone numbers, the Hurley students weren't prepared to hear back from the show. Jorgensen was suspicious of the unfamiliar number that showed up on her phone. "I had caller ID, and I wasn't going to

answer it. But I did and it was (Leno's staff) — I was shocked," she said. The Hurley seniors found themselves answering interesting questions during the phone interviews. "They asked about us, what we do for fun," Jorgensen said. "The Tonight Show" producers were surprised to learn about rural life, Jacobson said. "They didn't realize that things are so different here," she said. "They couldn't believe that Hurley didn't have a street light, and we have farms where they milk cows every day. It's so hard for them to understand life here." Jorgensen found it hard to describe the sparse population and wide open spaces of South Dakota. "They couldn't believe it often takes a half-hour to get to a larger restaurant or movie theater," she said. "We told them that your closest neighbor might be a mile away, and they thought it was crazy," Johnson said. The Hurley seniors are waiting to hear if they are selected for "The Tonight Show." They noted other South Dakota classes have appeared on late-night television,

and Hurley made national news when the town elected an 18-year-old mayor. "It would be neat to get a free trip and go on TV," DeNeui said, flashing a grin. **A PLACE IN HISTORY** The Viborg senior class may not be headed for such celebrity status, but they are still enjoying their role as the school's final graduating class. Ryne Kludt said he enjoyed his special place in school history. "It's nice to know we will be the very last class ever to graduate from Viborg High School. It's pretty cool, but there hasn't been too much stress on it all," he said. "Two years ago, it was a big deal to be the last class ever to graduate as Vikings. If we were still the Vikings, there would have been more of a push to wear the red and white (school colors)." The podium on stage carried a sign noting the last VHS graduating class. However, senior class president Kayla Stoltenberg said the historic moment didn't overwhelm commencement preparations. "Decorating the gym for graduation was pretty cool. We didn't put

much thought into being the last class," she said. "It's really helped that we have co-oped with sports. It has taken away the awkwardness (of consolidation)." Viborg salutatorian Zach Kraning, who finished behind vaedictorian Matt Jensen, said he hadn't thought much about his class being the school's last graduates. Rather than leave on a somber note, Kraning — also senior class vice president — wanted to take a lighter approach in his graduation speech. "I wanted something more humorous," he said. Michelle Miller, the student council president, also hadn't focused on being among the last VHS graduates. However, she will carry fond memories of her classmates. "It's something you don't think about until the end, but this is the last chance to be with our classmates," she said. "Our class worked together a lot. We are a close-knit school and town, and we know each other well." The Viborg students also looked to their friendships with Hurley students and the foundation laid for the new school district. "We really clicked well together.

It didn't matter if you were from Viborg or Hurley," Miller said. Kraning agreed. "It didn't matter who it was or where you were from, we got along well and enjoyed playing with everyone," he said. **SAYING GOOD-BYE** Both the Viborg and Hurley commencements featured retiring teachers. Viborg teacher Doug Allen taught English for 27 years, while Hurley's Julaine Stratmeyer had served as Family and Consumer Science (FACS) teacher and FCCLA advisor. Both educators taught the entire time this year's seniors were in school, with Allen teaching a second generation. Allen told the Press & Dakotan that he sees good things as Viborg and Hurley start a new chapter. "I am very hopeful for the future of the school district. It has good staff and good leadership," he said. "This will be a wonderful opportunity for the kids." Stratmeyer entered and left the Hurley school system with this year's seniors. As a sign of her close bond with the class, Stratmeyer hosted them for a meal and

horse ride at her place. With such memories behind them, the final Viborg and Hurley graduates — like their school districts — are looking to the future. The graduates talk of numerous school activities, including the tremendous excitement of playing and cheering for their athletic teams in numerous state appearances. And they talk of a close-knit atmosphere with fellow students and staff providing support. "It's cool to be in the last class. A lot of my family has graduated from (Hurley)," Johnson said. Jacobson agreed, but added that the moment was just hitting her. "It doesn't seem like it's real, that we would be the last class," she said. For Kludt, it's time to move on. "I will enjoy all the memories that I have made with my teammates and going to state tournaments. It's been a lot of fun," he said. "But I'm ready to get out and conquer the world."   
*You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf*

# Target

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"When you have designated space of this magnitude to a sport, it is really doing it right," he said. "This expansion (to an indoor 70-meter range) is awesome." It was hard to convince Georgia Southern and other universities that are pursuing archery centers to make such a leap in the past because there was no model to show them, Engh said. "The (Sherry) might have been pitched on an idea, but he doesn't want to take the risk of an unproven sport," he stated. "Now, he can see the partnerships Yankton has and its expansions." Meanwhile, in a classroom at the complex, archery coach M.J. Rogers taught a group of three parks and rec officials. It consisted of Robin Bonaventura of Cincinnati, Jered Hoover of Woodstock, Va., and John Corriveau of Saginaw, Mich. Each has a different level of experience with archery. Bonaventura is already a level-two instructor and has been involved with an archery program for some time. Corriveau has overseen an archery program for a couple of years, and Hoover had never shot a bow prior to Wednesday. "I feel like, being here, I'm learning from one of the best coaches in the country at a great facility," Hoover said. "The way I look at it, I'm leaving here in pretty good shape." "Archery in our county needs an uplifting of some sort," he

continued. "This is the perfect way to get it started. It's been a blessing seeing the knowledge and facility here, because it leads me to know I can do something in my community." With the experience and contacts he is making in the Yankton class, Corriveau said he hopes to reach his goal of building an indoor archery facility within the next five years. He said programs like this in his profession are rare — and the money to buy equipment after completion is even rarer. With budget constraints around the country, it is difficult for such a program to get started. "Thanks to this, you get the equipment so the (community) doesn't have to spend any money, and they get to see the results," Corriveau said. "We go home with the capability of hitting the ground running. That's crucial." Bonaventura acknowledged that archery is popular because it is accessible to people of various skills and physical abilities, but added, "It also helps that Hollywood is helping us (with 'The Hunger Games' movie)." Rogers said it has been a challenge teaching an archery class with such a diverse skill level among participants. However, he hopes the final impact is the same on all the students. "They are going to be back home like mosquitoes in a nudist colony," he stated. "They are going to want to indoctrinate everyone they see. The caution is, they are going to have to feed that out in bits and pieces."

*You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnInlandVoyage*

# Girls State

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other state officers, senators or representatives," she said. The program will also feature a judicial segment with assistance from local attorneys and judges. "The USD law school handles the judicial part of it where the girls can be either lawyers or judges, and then they hold mock trials at the end of the week," Hovorka said. The Clay County Sheriff's Department will also be on hand to aid with a segment for those interested in law enforcement. "We have 14 girls that will be

on the forensic investigative team where they have to solve a crime," Hovorka said. "They learn how to do fingerprinting, DNA testing and that sort of thing." Additional Girls State activities include general assemblies in Aalfs Auditorium, law and court procedure classes, talent auditions, keynote speakers, campus tours, and various presentations and meetings. A college/career fair is also scheduled for May 30 in the Muenster University main dining area. "There's a lot of different avenues and different things they can learn along with city, county and state government," Hovorka said. The theme for this year's Girls State is "Honor Their Service: Faces of Freedom," which will be

used to support the Women of War (WOW) Project in Belle Fourche. "It's a homeless shelter for female veterans and their children, and we're looking for items that they could use," Hovorka said. Girls State participants, speakers and volunteers throughout the week will donate and collect the items, which include monetary donations, toiletries, First Aid kits, office supplies, cookware and non-perishable food items. Those interested in donating can contact Hovorka at 605-677-5702 or by email at gstate@usd.edu.

Also during this year's session, Mark Weinmann, South Dakota American Legion Commander, will deliver the keynote address at the inauguration of the new Girls State Governor at 8 p.m. June 1 in Aalfs Auditorium. Prior to the inauguration, the Girls State chorus will present a patriotic concert. For more information about Girls State, email gstate@usd.edu.   
*You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d\_bartos*

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